

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 IO-03 ADP-00 SSO-00 /015 R

66605

DRAFTED BY: NEA: JCRAIG

APPROVED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

----- 099642

O 032111 Z MAY 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 083987

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, DIA WASHDC INFO CINCEUR,
ATHENS FROM BEIRUT MAY 03 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5066

ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY

1. CHARGE CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER AT 1900 Z TO FIND OUT
CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND, IF POSSIBLE, OBTAIN
MORE PRECISION RE GOL' S REQUEST (SITREP 5).
ABOUHAMAD REPLIED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAFEZ WAS ALMOST
CERTAIN TO RESIGN TONIGHT. HE WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO
REASONS OTHER THAN THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES
WAS THE ARMY' S CLASH WITH THE FEDAYEEN. HE EXPLAINED
THAT RASHID KARAME AND KAMAL JUMBLATT HAD EXERTED CON-
SIDERABLE PRESSURE ON HAFEZ TO RESIGN. FOREIGN MINISTER
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INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY APPOINT A NEW PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW, MAY 4, AND THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE A CIVILIAN. HE INDICATED THAT HAFEZ' S RESIGNATION WOULD OBVIOUSLY GREATLY COMPLICATE THINGS FOR FRANGIE.

2. ABOUHAMAD SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE AND SUPPORTED REQUEST FROM PRESIDENCY FOR USG ASSISTANCE. HE WAS IMPRECISE ON WHAT FORM ASSISTANCE MIGHT TAKE BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA WAS LEBANON' S PRINCIPAL CONCERN AT THE MOMENT AND REFERRED TO CONVERSATION WITH SISCO LAST SEPTEMBER.

3. COMMENT: ABOUHAMAD WAS AT HIS HOME AND SOUNDED DISCOURAGED. HE FELT NOTHING DRAMATIC WOULD HAPPEN TONIGHT BUT WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT TOMORROW. HOUGHTON

UNQUOTE ROGERS

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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30 JUN 2005

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